

MAY REJECT OFFER

Indications of a Struggle in Coming Miners' Convention.

MORE CONCESSIONS WANTED

Large Element Will Ask More Than the 10 Per Cent.

UNREST IN LABOR CIRCLES

Scranton, Pa., October 10.—It is already evident that there is to be a big struggle in the coming miners' convention before the coal strike is settled. Acceptance of the coal operators' terms is by no means assured. On the contrary, there is a constantly growing sentiment among the men to reject the 10 per cent advance unless other concessions are granted. Delegates to the convention are being daily elected throughout the anthracite regions. A majority of those thus far chosen are in favor of insisting upon more than the 10 per cent offer.

In the convention there will be a formidable element, which will demand that the operators yield the following: An eight-hour day, semi-monthly payments; that the miners have their own weighmen at the scales; the abolition of the regular miners' ton instead of the present overweight, equal number of cars to each miner; no company stores; no war against the union organizers; no violation of state mining laws; a contract for the continuance of the 10 per cent increase for at least one year.

If the miners refuse to accept the 10 per cent offer, the full convention to discuss these claims and decide whether or not the miners shall insist upon urging them. It is impossible to forecast the outcome.

Organized labor is restless and other strikes are threatened. The railway employees have been busy for several days over the hauling of soft coal into the coal regions to fill the void left in the coal market by the withdrawal of the anthracite.

More than this, the union labor officials from the Monongahela and Western Pennsylvania soft-coal fields are here now and are conferring with the labor leaders relative to the shipment of soft coal. John W. Carr of the United Mine Workers, representing the soft coal fields, and National Organizer "Curly" Hoff, declare that there will be a strike in the soft coal fields if shipments continue as at present. They declare that this strike is not settled early next week will demand that shipments of bituminous coal must cease immediately or a strike will be ordered.

Of course all these calamity apprehensions are based upon the refusal of the convention to accept the 10 per cent offer. However, of the existing feeling among the men it is worth while to take these things into consideration.

In the event of adverse action.

If the convention acts adversely it is probable that a number of the miners will endeavor to strike up next week, especially at those mines where the men struck reluctantly.

Such an attempt must surely result in trouble and the officials of the miners' union who have been conducting the strike will have their hands full in attempting to control the men.

Scranton is very blue over the outlook, a feeling of apprehension giving way to the optimism which manifested when the convention was called to consider the 10 per cent offer. The hope is still entertained, however, that the conservative element among the miners will prevail and that an understanding can be reached which will put an end to the present perilous situation and which every day would grow more threatening.

N. O. M.

Another Mine Shuts Down.

HARRISBURG, Pa., October 10.—The Williamson colliery has closed down, owing to the failure of the company to secure lands to operate it. The mine employees have joined those at Lykens and Wisconsin in the strike for the demands of the United Mine Workers.

A branch of the union which has been organized at Williamson, with a membership of over 500, and the men say they will not go to work until the strike is declared off.

Lykens valley for the present. About 2,500 men are now idle in that territory.

Work Part in Scranton Parade.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., October 10.—Quite a number of United Mine Workers from the Wyoming valley went to Scranton today and took part in the big parade at that place.

All is quiet about the mines in this section today. At the sheriff's office there was a truth in the statement that the deputies had been arrested for murder.

THINKS CHINA NEEDS A LESSON.

F. D. Gamewell Says Otherwise Outbreaks Will Be Repeated.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 10.—Among the arrivals from the Orient on the steamer American Maru is F. D. Gamewell, to whose energy and engineering skill the safety of the beleaguered city has been entrusted in a large measure due, as it was owing largely to the effectiveness of his plans of defense that they were able to hold out against the Chinese rabble until the relief column reached them.

"As to the results of this war," said Mr. Gamewell, "I do not hesitate to say, and I believe my sentiment is shared by many others, that the United States should be punished to the fullest extent. Whether that punishment shall take the form of execution is a matter to be determined later, but whatever the punishment it should be sufficiently severe to have a lasting effect on the Chinese nation."

"It is no fault of the Boxers that all our missionaries and consuls are not dead today. If we make light of this thing and pass it by, merely demanding an indemnity, it is my opinion that the same terrible scenes will be repeated within a few years."

He was told that the Germans will demand the head of Prince Tuan, and they did not propose to leave China until they got it.

"Good," said he, and Mrs. Gamewell approved. "The Germans demand the situation, and I hope they will stick to their decision."

Mrs. Gamewell, a missionary, and her three children have also arrived here from Peking. Rev. J. A. Miller and wife, Miss Kate Ogden and Mr. and Mrs. O. Cady were the other members of the party.

The American Maru, Dr. Miller and wife were stationed at Pao-tung-fu, 100 miles distant from Peking. On account of Mrs. Miller's illness they left for the coast at the end of May. The day after their departure the railroad track was torn up. There were three missions, fifteen missionaries at Pao-tung-fu. The Rev. Miller is certain that none of them is now alive.

Miss Ogden, a central China, and Mr. and Mrs. Cady from central China.

NOVEL SUIT FOR INSURANCE

Wife Murderer Asks For Her Life Policy.

He Was Acquitted of the Crime on the Ground of Insanity.

PHILADELPHIA, October 10.—A suit to recover insurance on the life of his wife, whom he killed on December 31, 1893, has been commenced in this city by Prof. Shortridge C. Shortridge, who is now residing at Kenneth C. Shortridge, in Chester county. The suit, which is to recover the sum of \$7,022 from the President Life and Trust Company, is one of the most remarkable in the history of life insurance.

The tragedy which ended the life of Mrs. Shortridge was in Media on a New Year's eve, and caused a great sensation. Several years before that date Prof. Shortridge had come to Media with his wife and family and established what was known as the McKeen school for young men. For several years the venture was successful, the school having a high-class patronage. Then Mrs. Shortridge died.

In November, 1893, Prof. Shortridge married Miss Marie Dixon Jones, and everybody pronounced it a happy match. Shortly after his second marriage the professor began to act strangely. On the night of the killing, six weeks after the marriage, Prof. Shortridge invited his wife to go out with him for a walk.

It had been snowing heavily and Mrs. Shortridge protested that her husband was not completely dressed. He commanded her to follow him, and when they had gone a short distance from the house he drew a revolver and shot her through the heart. He then made an attempt to commit suicide, but was disarmed by a neighbor.

In the trial which followed Prof. Shortridge was acquitted on the ground of insanity and was confined in an asylum until a year ago.

BIG GAIN IN CUMBERLAND.

About 1,000 New Voters Registered in Special District at the Evening Star.

CUMBERLAND, Md., October 10.—The republicans claim to have made sufficient gain to offset the disaffection resultant from local conditions by systematic registration work. The most complete registration in the history of the party in this county was completed Tuesday, October 2.

Another gain of something like 1,000 new voters is shown for Cumberland, and of this number the republicans claim over 600. Their gain in the county will probably reach 200. In Garrett, it is claimed, it will amount to 100.

EN ROUTE TO INDIANA.

Governor Roosevelt Passes Through Chicago This Morning.

CHICAGO, October 10.—Gov. Roosevelt's special train arrived here from St. Louis at 8:45 a.m. an hour and a half late. At 9:15 the train departed for Indiana, where the governor will spend the next two days. The party is in charge of United States Senator Fairbanks of Indiana, who joined at Chicago. Accompanying him are Congressman Kerns, who conducted the party from St. Louis, remained here.

SIR THOMAS WILL TRY AGAIN.

He Has Formally Challenged For the American's Cup.

LONDON, October 10.—It is reported here that a challenge from Sir Thomas Lipton to the challenger of the Russian yacht Club this morning.

NEW YORK, October 10.—Inquiries made by a representative of the Associated Press at the New York Yacht Club tend to confirm the report from London that another challenge of the Russian yacht Club has been received from Sir Thomas Lipton, but no definite statement on the subject can be made at present.

WAS IN ATTACK ON TAKU.

Russian Army Officer Speaks Highly of Americans There.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 10.—Lieut. A. Dolgobroff of the Russian army is here on his way east, where he will spend a few days before returning to Russia. The lieutenant was on board the Russian flag-ship at Taku. He commended the work of the Americans in China, but says they would have done better had they been better organized. A branch of the union which has been organized at Williamson, with a membership of over 500, and the men say they will not go to work until the strike is declared off.

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ANOTHER OBSTACLE

The Pao Ting Expedition Retards Peace Negotiations.

NOT REGARDED HERE AS NECESSARY

Reply to the French Note Not Completed.

MAY BE DELAY OF MONTHS

The answer to the French note has not yet been completed, and the subject is regarded as a hindrance to the peace negotiations. It appears, however, that although the French note closed with a request for speedy action upon the suggestions therein contained, the recent happenings in China, and especially in the province of Chihli, have so far set back peace negotiations that there is ample time to make a full and complete reply to the French note. It may be a matter of weeks and even months before the peace commissioners will be able to get to work.

Attitude on the French Note.

There is no longer any doubt that this government heartily approves the main propositions laid down in the French note made public on the 5th instant in regard to a common program to be adopted by the powers as a basis for peace negotiations with China. As to the first of the proposed terms of settlement, the punishment of the principal culprits, this government has already declared itself in unshakable support.

As to the second, the maintenance of the prohibition against the import of arms, this government will not decline itself to the point of making it a definite prerequisite to further negotiations.

As to the third and fourth propositions, providing for equitable indemnities to the states, societies and individuals and the formation of a permanent guard for the legations in Peking, a cordial assent will be given.

As to the fifth, which requires the dismantlement of the fortifications, this government is not disposed to go quite to the length of making it a definite condition, as does the French note.

The sixth of the French conditions reads as follows: "Military occupation of two or three points of the coast, from Peking to Tientsin, which would thus be always open to the legations wishing to go to the sea, or near to the coast, in connection with the sum of the indemnities." This paragraph would seem to make it obligatory upon the powers to maintain garrisons at these points, and while the government is not disposed to accept such an application necessary for the safety of the members of the legations and others desiring to travel between Peking and Tientsin, it is not disposed to make the demand as a matter of right, to be exercised by any or all of the powers at will. The formal note, substantially as outlined above, is in preparation, and will be probably handed to M. Thiebaut, the French chargé in Washington, within a day or two.

The Pao Ting Expedition.

Ill-considered military operations in China and elsewhere in China are said to be responsible for the check which diplomacy has met in reaching a settlement. Through the efforts of our own State Department, seconded by the more conservative powers, a steady and systematic pressure had been brought to bear upon the Chinese emperor to bring about his return to Peking.

The representation from the great southern viceroys to the emperor, reported in yesterday's dispatches, setting out the possibility of our own troops, with their arms and food if it persisted in retreating to Singan-fu in Shensi, was but one of the means which had been resorted to at our instance to secure the return of the court. Other potent instrumentalities are also at work to bring about the return of the court, and the situation is being watched with interest.

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